

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 INR-07 DODE-00 NSC-05 IO-13
OIC-02 CIAE-00 PM-04 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /081 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:TMSAVAGE; AF/E:RFILLING,GWSCOTT:EB
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES
EUR/RPM:JHMADDEN
EUR/SOV:DHERSPRING
AF/E:JWHITING (SUBS)
INR/RAR:RALLEN
INR/RSE:JCOLLINS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 069818

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, XF, XA

SUBJECT: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 30

REF: A) USNATO 1674 B) USNATO 1748

1. IN RESPONSE TO SYG LUNS' REQUEST, YOU MAY INDICATE
DURING MARCH 30 NAC MEETING THAT WE WILL PROVIDE IN NEAR
FUTURE ANALYSES ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CASTRO AND
PODGORNY VISITS TO AFRICA. MOREOVER, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT
WE JOIN LUNS IN WELCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER ALLIES
ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE

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AN INDICATION OF ALLIES WHO PLAN TO SUBMIT ANALYSIS ON
THESE VISITS. (FYI: CONTRIBUTION ON CASTRO VISIT BEING
PREPARED AND WE HOPE TO TRANSMIT IT IN TIME FOR NEXT NAC.
ANALYSIS OF IMPLICATIONS OF PODGORNY TRIP WILL BE PREPARED
FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF VISIT AND WILL BE PROVIDED AS
SOON AS AVAILABLE.)

2A. IN RESPONSE TO CATALANO'S QUESTION ABOUT OUR REACTION TO A GROWING REAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE USSR, YOU MAY SAY THAT WE ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION AND ARE NOW ENGAGED IN A REVIEW OF OUR POLICIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

B. THE SOVIETS WAITED OVER TWO YEARS BEFORE THEY GAVE THEIR BLESSINGS TO THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, AND NOW THEY ARE RESPONDING TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF IMPROVING THEIR POSITION IN ONE OF AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS COUNTRIES.

C. WE BELIEVE THE SOVIETS WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN ETHIOPIA, ATTEMPTING TO BALANCE OPPORTUNITIES THERE AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY OF LOSING ALREADY SECURED ADVANTAGES IN SOMALIA. THE SOVIETS, WE FEEL, HAVE SATISFIED THEIR CURRENT STRATEGIC NEEDS IN SOMALIA, BUT ETHIOPIA IS MORE IMPORTANT POLITICALLY OVER THE LONGER TERM. A DISINTEGRATED ETHIOPIA, HOWEVER, WOULD LOSE A GOOD DEAL OF ITS ATTRACTION.

D. CASTRO HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED ETHIOPIA ARMS AND TRAINING FOR ITS PEOPLES' MILITIA AND HELP IN ERITREA. ASSUMING THE CUBANS ARE SERVING IN CONCERT WITH THE SOVIETS IN THIS MATTER, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH SUPPORT IS DESIGNED TO INSURE THAT IF THE SOVIETS CHOOSE ETHIOPIA THEY WILL NOT BE COMMITTING THEMSELVES TO A DISINTEGRATING ASSET.

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E. OUR PRESENT LEVERAGE IN ETHIOPIA IS SERIOUSLY LIMITED. THE EPMG CLEARLY IS INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING TIES WITH THE SOVIETS AND APPARENTLY HAVE ONLY LIMITED INTEREST IN OUR MILITARY MATERIEL. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMALIA WILL ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS FELLOW ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS AT THE EXPENSE OF ITS PRESENT CLOSE TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

F. CUBAN AND SOVIET EFFORTS IN THE HORN ARE BEING COUNTERED BY INITIATIVES OF MODERATE ARAB LEADERS. THE SAUDIS HAVE REPORTEDLY OFFERED THE SOMALIS SUBSTANTIAL SUMS IF THEY WILL REDUCE THEIR TIES TO THE SOVIETS. SUDAN'S PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S SUCCESS IN ATTRACTING PRESIDENT SIAD TO THE FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE IN N. YEMEN INDICATES THAT SIAD IS CONSIDERING THE ALTERNATIVES BEING PROFFERED BY THE ARABS.

G. WE WILL BE WORKING WITH SUDAN, KENYA, EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA CONCERNING HOW BEST TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS

IN THIS VOLATILE REGION.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE069818
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMSAVAGE; AF/E:RFILLING,GWSCOTT:EB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0092
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770310/aaaaaibs.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7e8f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2933707
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING, MARCH 30
TAGS: PFOR, XF, XA, UR, CU, NATO, NAC
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7e8f07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009